



City of Asheville, NC

Finance Department

Minutes

Finance Committee
3:30 p.m., May 24, 2011
HR Training Room, 6th Floor, City Hall

Present: Committee: Councilman Bill Russell (Chair), Councilman Cecil Bothwell, Councilwoman Esther Manheimer

Staff: Lauren Bradley, Tony McDowell, Cheryl Heywood, John Sanchez, Dawa Hitch, Marsha Stickford

- Approval of 4/5/2011 Minutes
 - Councilman Bothwell moved to approve the minutes of the 3/15/11 finance committee meeting. This motion was seconded by Councilwoman Manheimer and carried unanimously.
- Public Access Funding
 - URTV requested additional funding in the amount of \$115, 000 from the City and stated that if it did not receive the funding, it would close its doors. Staff was notified that URTV has vacated the studio space and is no longer maintaining staff at the studio space. Council directed city staff to conduct an audit and inventory the equipment located in the studio. Lauren said that Buncombe County has expressed an interest in pursuing a joint request for proposal initiative (RFP) for another media services initiative.
 - Staff received direction from the committee to move ahead with the following items:
 - Formal communication to board that the City does not intend to extend contract.
 - Collection of the equipment at the studio that belongs to the City.
 - Development of a request for proposal (RFP) for continuation of media development services.
 - Lauren stated that she would draft an RFP for full council review and consideration that would emphasize the key components of community development, economic and workforce development, industry development and training and education.

- Special Events Co-Sponsorship
 - Council approved a three year sponsorship of six anchor events in the form of permit fee waivers and city support services. The City has received additional requests for additional event sponsorships from Eblen Charities Toy Run and Just Folks.
 - The committee said that if there is currently an agreement between the city and the organization requesting sponsorship, and it is mutually beneficial for both parties, then the proposal can bypass the finance committee and go straight to full council for consideration.
- Other Business:
 - Councilman Bothwell asked if staff had an answer regarding whether the pedestrian safety program included sound signals at the crosswalks. Lauren said that she will follow up with Transportation staff and let him know.